Sustainability Commission Energy & Air Working Group Meeting Report

Date: Thursday, June 19th 4pm, Constellation Energy

Subject: Energy & Air Working Group Working Session

In Attendance: Lynn Heller, Cliff Mitchell, Patricia Tracey, John Quinn, Mike Li, Beth Harber, Ted Atwood, Elizabeth Ridlington, Davis Bookhart, Sarah Zaleski

Discussion: The meeting began by revisiting the draft vision statement and discussing potential amendments. Discussion then moved onto how to effectively address climate change adaptation and the health impacts of the energy and air issues. The group brainstormed ideas for working group goals.

Topics addressed:

- Vision Statement suggestions
 - o More about reducing carbon footprint and reducing consumption
 - o Desire to address both GHG emission of both City operations and broader community
 - o Think about "leveraging City actions" to multiply GHG reduction efforts beyond the City
 - o Important to acknowledge the difference between efficiency and conservation
 - o Expanding the scope of "economic opportunities" to include innovation
 - o Be careful with language to not promise too much (e.g. safer instead of safe)
 - o Change out "global warming" for "climate change"
- Climate change adaptation discussion
 - o Should this be included in the vision statement
 - o Recommendation could potentially include systematic revaluations of risks
 - o Suggestion to check out Ed Mazria's (of Architects 2030) inundation maps
- How to address the health impacts of our goals?
 - o Many ways that our energy systems (both up and down stream) affect health & safety
 - o Should we center our health discussion on the emissions of combustion?
 - o "Air that is healthy" may be incomplete because public health is not limited to air quality
 - o Suggestion: "Energy mix that has the most favorable profile for public health"
- Brainstorming potential goals
 - o Reduce carbon footprint
 - o Reduce energy consumption (conservation and efficiency)
 - Decrease use of fossil fuels
 - o Increase energy reliability (local/distributed power generation)
 - Ensure universal access to energy
 - Reduce pollutant levels in air
 - Convert combustion sources
 - Expand job opportunities in an environmentally responsible way
 - Enhance environmentally responsible business development and recruitment (technology innovation and promotion as a subset)
 - o Increase environmentally responsible investment opportunity
 - Create and implement a system to evaluate and reevaluate vulnerabilities caused by climate change
- Organization of goals
 - Can keep an eye on the big picture while taking action today by having both near and long term goals
 - Need to determine how to address reliability and access to energy via the goals

Goals may be divided into supply side, demand side, and air

To Do:

Working group members to:

- Continue thinking about types of goals we should explore
- Think of potential energy/air related questions we may want to include in a survey Lynn & Sarah to:
- Investigate possible BRESCO field trip times

Upcoming Events:

- June Commission on Sustainability meeting, Tuesday, June 24th 4pm Baltimore City Department of Planning (417 E. Fayette St. 8th Floor)
- Next EA WG meeting, Thursday, June 26th 4pm via conference call
 BRESCO field trip, Tuesday July 22nd 10:30 am RSVP to Sarah
- July Commission on Sustainability meeting, Tuesday, July 22th 4pm Baltimore City Department of Planning (417 E. Fayette St. 8th Floor)